

Message Text

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SUBJ: SOVIET TRACTOR BUILDING INDUSTRY IN THE 10TH FIVE YEAR PLAN

1. SUMMARY: TASS-VESTNIK ARTICLE ON TENTH FIVE YEAR PLAN PROVIDES DETAILS ON PROJECTED TRACTOR PRODUCTION. ANNUAL OUTPUT PROJECTED AT 580-600,000 BY 1980. DURING CURRENT FIVE-YEAR PERIOD 1.9 MILLION TRACTORS WILL BE CONSTRUCTED FOR AGRICULTURE ALONG. OUTPUT WILL ALLOW SOVIETS SUBSTANTIALLY TO COVER DOMESTIC DEMAND AND PERMIT EXPORT OF NEW MODELS. ARTICLE ALSO CLAIMS THAT PRODUCTION WILL BE STANDARDIZED IN CEMA FRAMEWORK. SEVERAL NEW MODELS ARE TO BE INTRODUCED, AND IN PROCESS OF RETOOLING FACTORIES FOR SERIAL PRODUCTION, THERE WILL BE GREATER MECHANIZATION AND AUTOMATION OF PROCESSES, INCLUDING BROADER USE OF NUMERICALLY-CONTROLLED MACHINE TOOLS.
END SUMMARY.

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2. TASS-VESTNIK (AUG 23) DESCRIBES PLANNED GROWTH OF SOVIET

TRACTOR-BUILDING INDUSTRY IN TENTH FIVE-YEAR PLAN (1976-1980). MANY FACTORIES PRESENTLY PRODUCING CURRENT MODELS ARE TO BE RESTRUCTURED TO PRODUCE NEWER, MORE POWERFUL TRACTORS. NEW CAPITAL INVESTMENTS IN PLAN PERIOD WILL PERMIT PRODUCTION OF ADDITIONAL 175,000 TRACTORS PER YEAR, BY 1980 TRACTOR PRODUCTION IN USSR SHOULD REACH 580-600,000 TRACTORS PER YEAR WITH A TOTAL HORSEPOWER OF 55 MILLION. MOST OF THESE TRACTORS DESTINED FOR AGRICULTURAL SECTOR, WHICH WILL RECEIVE 1.9 MILLION NEW TRACTORS, IN FIVE-YEAR PLAN PERIOD.

3. ACCORDING TO ARTICLE, A NUMBER OF SOVIET TRACTOR FACTORIES ARE TO UNDERGO RETOOLING TO PRODUCE NEW MODELS. THE CHEBOKSARY PLANT WILL BEGIN SERIAL PRODUCTION OF MODEL T-330 IN 1978 AND OF T-500 IN 1980, CONSEQUENTLY THE VOLGOGRAD TRACTOR ENGINE FACTORY AND KAMYSHIN CASTING AND STAMPING FACTORY ARE ALSO RETOOLING. OTHER FACTORIES RETOOLING ARE CHELYABINSK TRACTOR FACTORY, FOR FULL PRODUCTION OF T-130 BEGINNING IN 1978; KHABAROVSK TRACTOR FACTORY AND OTHER MEMBERS OF ITS PRODUCTION ASSOCIATION, TO PRODUCE T-150 AND T-150K IN 1978; MINSK TRACTOR FACTORY, FOR PRODUCTION OF MTZ-80/82 FROM 1979. VOLGOGRAD TRACTOR FACTORY IS NOW PUTTING FINISHING TOUCHES ON MODEL DT-75C AND PLANNING RETOOLING OF FACTORY. FOLLOWING TRACTOR-BUILDING ORGANIZATIONS ARE PLANNING EXPANSION OF PRODUCTION FACILITIES: KISHINEV, ONEZH AND LIPETSK TRACTOR FACTORIES AND ALTAI TRACTOR-BUILDING ASSOCIATION. OTHER NEW MODELS WHICH WILL ENTER INTO PRODUCTION DURING CURRENT FIVE-YEAR PLAN ARE HIGH-POWERED T-700 OF THE LENINGRAD TRACTOR FACTORY, INDUSTRIAL TRACTOR T-100MZ, AND (IN VLADIMIR) THE T-25AI.

4. IT IS PLANNED TO UPGRADE TECHNICALLY THIS BRANCH OF INDUSTRY. FURTHER CONCENTRATION OF PRODUCTION IS FORESEEN, AS WELL AS THE INTRODUCTION OF COMPLEX TECHNOLOGICAL PROCESSES AND MECHANIZATION. SPECIAL ATTENTION IS TO BE PAID TO MECHANIZATION AND AUTOMATION OF WAREHOUSING. THERE WILL ALSO BE BROADER USE OF NUMERICALLY-CONTROLLED MACHINE TOOLS. IN INDIVIDUAL OPERATIONS USE OF ROBOTS WILL BE INTRODUCED FOR FIRST TIME.

5. ARTICLE ASSERTS SOVIET UNION CAN TO SIGNIFICANT DEGREE
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SATISFY INTERNAL DEMAND FOR TRACTORS AND IS IN POSITION TO EXPORT NEW MODELS. WITHIN CEMA FRAMEWORK THERE EXISTS SCIENTIFIC-TECHNICAL COOPERATION IN TRACTOR BUILDING; WORK IS BEING CARRIED OUT ON UNIFICATION OF SEPARATE ASSEMBLY OF MACHINE COMPONENTS PURSUANT TO RECOMMENDATIONS ON STANDARDIZATION. CEMA COUNTRIES, ACCORDING ARTICLE, ARE VERY INTERESTED IN NEW SOVIET MODELS. THUS, ONCE INDUSTRIAL TRACTOR T-330 IS IN SERIAL PRODUCTION, IT WILL BE

EXPORTED TO CEMA MEMBERS.

6. IN 1975 USSR EXPORTED 38,719 TRACTORS. BESIDES COMMUNIST COUNTRIES, OTHER IMPORTING COUNTRIES WERE FRANCE, FINLAND, GREEK, ITALY, DENMARK, THE NETHERLANDS AND ASIAN AND AFRICAN COUNTRIES.

7. COMMENT: ARTICLE MAKES NO MENTION OF PLANS FOR EXPANDED PRODUCTION OF SPAREPARTS, LACK OF WHICH HAS PROVED TO BE MAJOR BOTTLENECK IN EFFICIENT USE OF AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY. QUESTION THEREFORE ARIESE OF WHAT WILL HAPPEN WHEN NEW MODELS BREAD DOWN, AS WILL INEVITABLY OCCUR FREQUENTLY GIVEN SOVIET CONDITIONS FOR STORAGE OF AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT.
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